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AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

Vol. 11. No. 2.

54 Renwick Street, Marrickville. — Tel.: 55-6877

January 26, 1968.

MOST STARS TO STAY PUT DESPITE FEUDS

Much of the current haggling between some players and their clubs has a simple economical background: most clubs have less money than in the past and many players are demanding more than ever.

This, indeed, is the age of discontent when not only soccer players but nurses, airline pilots, metal workers and postal van drivers all feel that they are entitled to more cash and more privileges.

In soccer, unlike in most industries, the economical factors are rather simple: a club with dwindling support cannot afford to offer higher salaries.

Perhaps some clubs should try and experiment with the

idea of paying their players strictly according to gate takings.

Despite the many harsh words spoken by players and officials, the picture is still not quite as dark as it may appear.

In the majority of cases the financial wrangles will be peacefully resolved and the only thing achieved by some players will be the public spectacle they have managed to create.

Stan Ackerley was disappointed with the terms of the new contract offered by APIA and, although he played for Sydney XI against Dallas Tornado, he still has to make an appearance with APIA.

Despite APIA's riches in fullbacks, the prospects of an amicable settlement between the player and club are good and we wouldn't be surprised if the effervescent Stan re-

appeared with APIA as early as this weekend.

Pat Hughes, the other recalcitrant APIA international, was adamant he would not play with APIA again.

His discontent stemmed from a personal clash with a leading official late last year, but the feud was apparently settled this week and Hughes will almost certainly play Friday.

John Watkiss and Johnny Giacometti joined APIA's list of malcontents last week.

Watkiss, however, settled his differences on Monday, but Giacometti's future is still uncertain.

Gerry Hood is hankering for a transfer back to Hakoah, who have regretted bitterly letting him go to Canterbury last year.

The Scottish goalgrabber will definitely not stay with the Berries, and will almost certainly rejoin his former club once both clubs come to some agreement, which may be soon.

Vic Reynolds is reported to have itchy feet again and is the only Croatia player still at odds over terms for 1968.

Don't expect any transfer here: the fine English-born utility player will stay put and have a useful season if he can keep clear of the injuries which invariably plague him year in, year out.

Vic Povey, the Prague speedster, is loath to leave the club.

"This will be my best year. I'll emerge as Sydney's top winger," Povey promised club officials.

In keeping with their avowed youth policy, geared on locally-bred talent, Prague have a surfeit of forwards and are keen to transfer Povey.

The likely outcome is that Povey will probably "shop" around for a while, but eventually return to the fold.

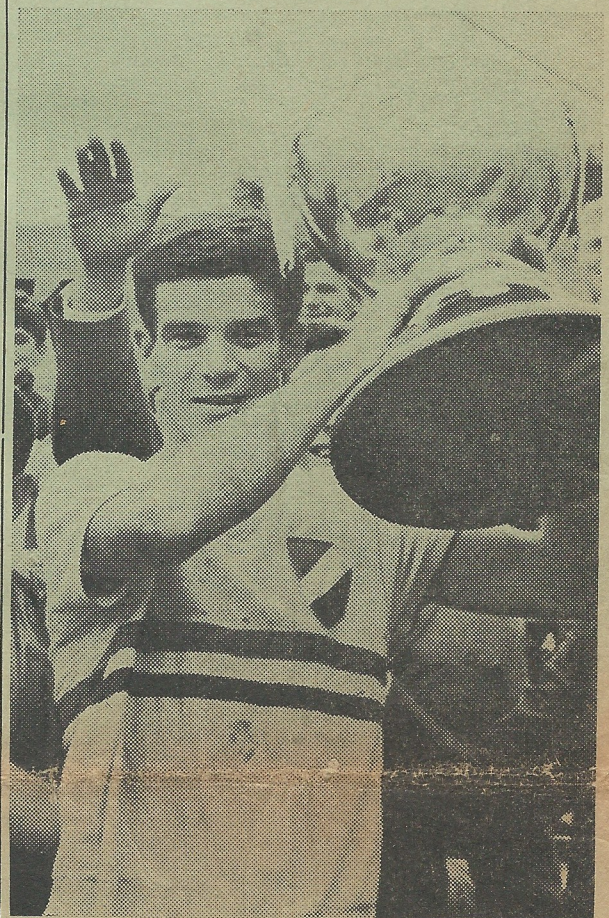
Luis Gauto's transfer to APIA was almost in the bag until APIA, on medical advice, chose to buy Cumberland's Keddie instead.

Gauto, too, will almost certainly remain with Prague.

Hakoah's John Duffy is a late addition to the growing list of transfer seekers.

Meanwhile, at Woonona, South Coast last Sunday quashed rumors about the possible transfer of Max Tolson and Dennis Paterson by appointing Tolson team captain for 1968 and offering the NSW representative winger a brand-new contract.

CAN HE HOLD IT?



A jubilant John Warren proudly displays the Ampol Cup won by St. George-Budapest last year. The 1968 series get under way Friday night with 11 determined clubs hell-bent on wresting the magnificent trophy away from the Saints.

Soccer dispute — Italian style

— By ALAN SPEERS —

One or two more heavy defeats and APIA's new get-tough policy with their recalcitrant star players will undergo more revisions — or so do most Sydney observers believe.

At present APIA are at loggerheads with several of their key players over terms.

As a result, some have been swiftly placed on the transfer list — Watkiss at \$8,000, Hughes at \$6,000 and Giacometti at \$4,000.

In addition, Ackerley and Taylor were also in dispute with the club.

As almost traditional in such cases, the two sides present their stories somewhat differently.

APIA claim that they offered the players the same terms as last season — "not a cent less."

The players, on the other hand, say that they would receive about 30 per cent less than in 1967. Probably there is more to the dispute than meets the eye and more than APIA would admit.

Faced with the realisation that their star is on the wane anyway, they may hope to rebuild from scratch.

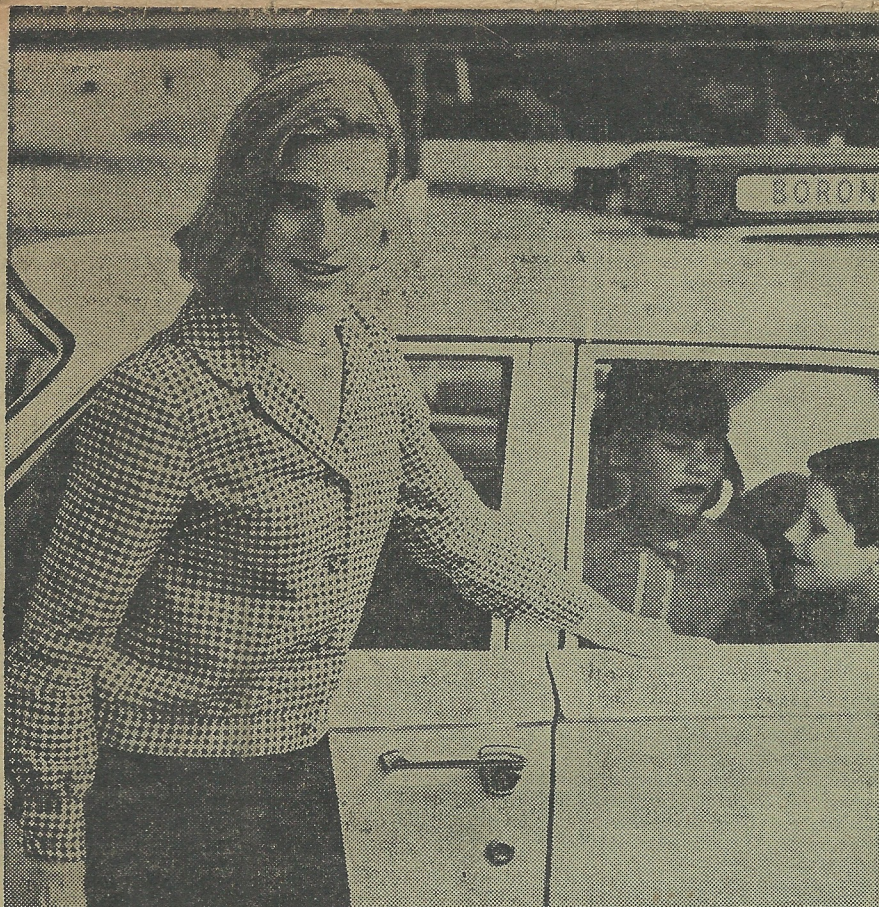
"If we couldn't win the Grand Final or the Australia Cup with all our stars, we might as well build a new, young team and save a lot of money in the process," one APIA official said this week.

This, if carried out, may mean the end of APIA's domination, for the time being anyway.

President Eddie Provera says the club will not bow to the players' demands.

"We can't pay players money we don't have," he says "and if that means they have to be placed on transfer, that's the way it will be."

(★ Continued on P. 7)



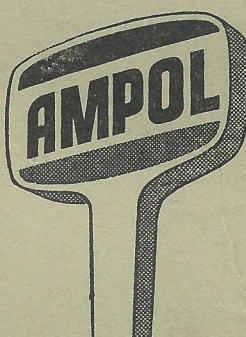
I have the children to consider...

I want to give them a good education. Well, Ampol helps there, giving grants to universities, spending money on the progress of knowledge.

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COUNTRY GROWTH TIPPED FOR '68

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

NSW Amateur Association officials foresee a year of very sound development in country football.

State secretary David Childs attended the Hunter Valley Branch meeting in the Newcastle area last week.

Next week he goes to Orange for the Western NSW meeting.

Federation referees have decided to join in country promotion to a greater measure than ever before. Tamworth has already been visited by secretary Laurie Smit for a weekend of instruction of the best available refereeing techniques.

Last year referees from Sydney lectured and demonstrated at Dubbo on four occasions.

The Riverina will receive practical support this year, with the assistance of some of the best men from Illawarra and Sydney.

Federation Referees' president, Allan Halls, hopes to see Lismore and the Tweed included in visits, adding Grafton and the Beautzone (Coffs Harbour and surrounding towns) as well.

These moves will bring big benefits, and must lead to the proper opening up of Kempsey, Taree and Port Macquarie as soccer centres within a few years on a permanent basis.

Central West will also be covered during the year.

The NSW Amateur Association expects the Queensland under-18 team to play in Northern NSW later this season.

Ways and means are being investigated to bring Queensland to the Central West of NSW also.

Queensland has agreed to send its under-16 team to NSW.

This visit will take place in early August, and should help prepare the NSW players for their proposed New Zealand tour from August 28 to September 10.

Queensland under-16s are certain to play in Newcastle, Sydney and the Coast.

Katoomba

Katoomba Junior club have applied to play in the Nepean Association this year.

Last year Nepean were given permission to take in clubs as far west as they wished.

This decision applied until such times as the Blue Mountains Association functioned as a successful unit.

At that stage Blue Mountains was not a financial member of the NSW body.

Obviously the position of clubs such as Katoomba and Springwood needs to be clarified.

If Blue Mountains still cannot function strongly,

then Nepean could cater for them.

This would mean that mountain towns and nearby Nepean teams could be placed in the competitions which best minimise travel.

This would hasten the solid development of the clubs from Penrith to Katoomba.

Blue Mountains clubs must be given home and away game rights by Nepean for the plan to succeed.

The Nepean Association is finalising arrangements for control of a ground in Second Avenue, Kingswood.

Funds will have to be raised to enclose the ground and build dressing sheds.

Projects such as these require ample funds, especially as the Association wants to employ a full time coach to build the standard of play for its growing band of young players.

State titles

The State Amateur championships will be conducted again with the Sydney winners meeting the country winners in the final.

After some controversy, this usual method for finals was agreed upon, as it is a good if not perfect method, and keeps costs within reasonable limits.

All entries have to be lodged by May 1 1968, and elimination games in all branches have to be completed by July 31, 1968.

Some districts which find distance and standards a bar to success in the championships could consider a local branch championship, so that their players get representative football.

Branch contacts

NSW Amateur Branch officials are:—

● Northern NSW: Bruce Jaeger, 19 View St., Gunnedah. (Tel. Gunnedah 1410).

● Hunter Valley: D. Jones, 37 Catherine St., Waratah (68-3384).

● Sydney Metropolitan: Brian Emery, 3 Tor Rd., Dee Why (98-9694).

● Western NSW: David Pritchard, 258 McLachlan St., Orange (Orange 5128).

● Southern NSW: Len Bolden, 90 St. Ann St., Nowra. (Nowra 23469).

Newcastle Association secretary George Eshman wants to see some administrative matters cleared up for the coming season.

One matter is to straighten out some border problems with the adjoining Macquarie Association.

Another is to have a better State Championship match set-up with the Upper Hunter Association, which is not yet strong enough to provide a good match with Newcastle.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

The PAPUA-NEW GUINEA national team will play a series of matches in NSW next month. Their tour is being sponsored by the Sydney Second Division clubs. They will play two matches in Sydney at the end of February against a Combined Second Division XI coached by Joe Marston. (For full details see next week's issue.)

NEIL INNES, Thistle's first team goalkeeper has returned after a two-year stint in Vietnam with the Australian Forces.

Top FIFA coach, DETT-MAR CRAMER, the assistant-coach of West Germany's World Cup team in England in 1966, will give a series of lectures and demonstrations in Australia in March. Cramer spent the last 12 months coaching extensively in several Asian countries.



SLAVKO PACANIN has been dropped from Yugal's Ampol Cup team for not attending training regularly. Pacanin missed the last three sessions and was promptly demoted by coach Dunaj. Pacanin failed to turn up altogether in the last fortnight.

NICK COSETTINI, the former APIA and Melita Eagles fullback will play for Monaro United, a new club in the ACT Second Division, this year.

Dr. BUJNA, Prague's new assistant coach and medical officer is a multi-linguist who speaks fluent French, English, Hungarian, Slovakian, Czech, German and Spanish. Bujna is also an accredited journalist with considerable European soccer reporting experience.

Six new mini-stands, capable of seating 450 spectators, have been erected at Wentworth Park. Additional improvements worth \$150,000 are planned during the next 12 months. Meanwhile, the City Council is still blissfully unconcerned about the slightest improvement to the Marks Field and added insult to injury by barring the ground to soccer for the Ampol Cup. The City Council, however, found the time to sell most of the advertising space on panels circling the pitch.

Pan Hellenic now have two mustached players. Young winger DEMOS has joined Roy Blitz in sporting a pencil mustache. By a strange coincidence, both are right wingers.

PETER FUZES, Hakoah's Australian international goalie (he played twice against Scotland in 1967), has passed his final Pharmacy exams.

STEVE FEHER, the Queanbeyan (ACT) goalkeeper, played for Pan Hellenic in the second half of their match against St. George last Sunday. Feher has moved to Sydney and is keen to join a local club, either Pan Hellenic or Yugal.

BRENDAN BERNE, the fair-haired Hakoah reserve grade fullback, tried out with APIA firsts last Sunday. Berne, who bears a striking resemblance to Stan Ackerley, is on transfer for \$300.

Yugal's adjourned AGM will be held on Sunday at 6.30 p.m. after the Ampol Cup double-header, at Yugal Hall. All members are invited to attend. The 1968 management committee will be elected at this session.

DAVID ZEMAN, the strapping Prague centre-half, announced his engagement last week to Miss Judy Kirk of Carlingford. They plan to marry in February 1968.

CECIL SHARPLY, a promising young forward who last year made several appearances with the first team of South Coast United, died in Brisbane last week when he accidentally fell from a three-storey building. He was a National Serviceman.

BERT JAGGER, a Lane Cove United utility player, has joined Manly.

Additions costing more than \$50,000 are being carried out to the APIA Club at Leichhardt.

South Coast and Melita Eagles will play a friendly at Woonona on Sunday.



JOE VLASITS has been officially appointed coach of the Australian national team for 1968. The Australian Federation will start advertising next week for the position of fulltime Director of Coaching.

HAKOAH will play Newcastle Austral on Sunday at the Whitebridge Ground, Newcastle. Both the first and second grade teams will travel north.

APIA are expecting a first class centre-forward from Bari soon.

Yet another player has joined the NSW Police Force. Latest recruit is Polonia goalie, COLIN OWERS. Ray Cush, Halpin, Mansfield are just a few of the soccer players in the Force.

This is Pan Hellenic's management committee for 1968:

George Pappas, president; Angelo Mallos, vice-president; Greg Athanassiou, secretary; Mick Nicholls, treasurer; George Zantey, team manager. The phone numbers of new secretary Athanassiou are 31-4118 (work) and 82-3435 (home).

St. George-Budapest forward DAVID CLISS now runs his own delivery business.

Canterbury coach JULIUS POLGAR is toying with the idea of moving to Canada. But first, he wants to settle with his club his 1967 fees.



Yugal forward, TAKAC, hasn't trained this year. The former Yugoslav First Division player, who joined Yugal late in 1966, underwent an operation for a fracture of the instep before Christmas and will be out for at least another two months.

GRAHAM BARNETT, the ex-South Coast player-coach, has been signed by Hakoah for what can be described a fair fee.

The PIKE SCHOOL, Massachusetts, USA, would like its student soccer team to tour here in June and July 1968. If the offer is confirmed, the NSW Combined High Schools are certain to lead the local arrangements.

The FEDERATION REFEREES meet on Sunday at Western Suburbs Soccer Club. Constitutional changes will be made to admit branches officially into membership.

PAN HELLENIC's coaching classes are drawing on average over 60 lads to Wentworth Park's outer ground each Sunday. The club's coaches already have a number of bright prospects on the dotted line. There's plenty of talent around now, vouches club coach Bill Vrolyks.

The inaugural meeting of the OCEANIC CONFEDERATION will be held in Brisbane next weekend. Delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Fiji, and New Caledonia, by invitation, will attend.

Polonia have signed Auburn's BOBBY HALL and WARREN ADDISON. Both are expected to play on Sunday. Winger Andrew Gaik will also play against St. George though he returns home in three weeks.

Hakoah are highly pleased with their Scottish newcomer, RAY GARDINER, aged 17, who made a fine debut for them last Sunday at right half.

Former Newcastle United (England) wing half DAVID SUGGETT has played trial games with Pan Hellenic and St. George, but has not yet signed for either.

The Council of First Division clubs, which meets the first and third Monday of each month, has agreed to stage double-headers during the competition if two attractive matches are scheduled for the same day. The First Division clubs have also tabled a resolution that vital games affecting the outcome of the semifinals must be played at the same time in the last round of the competition. The clubs have also recommended some amendments to the 1968 premiership draw.

TREVOR EDWARDS played his first game in five months when he turned up for one half with Hakoah's reserves last Sunday. Hakoah beat Pan Hellenic 4-2 in a curtain-raiser to the double-header trial at Wentworth Park.

THISTLE have started training. Players should contact secretary, R. Reynard, at 70-7067 re training times and venue. Bob Cummings has been appointed coach for 1968.

BILL RORKE, Australia's World Cup goalkeeper, has resumed training. His troublesome shoulder injury has mended and he is rarin' to regain his place in APIA's first team and eventually find favor with the State and Australian selectors again. Although still in disagreement with APIA over the terms of a new contract, Rorke is confident of signing soon.

As a result of the amalgamation of the juniors, the senior club and the social club, Bankstown as from this year will officially be called BANKSTOWN UNITED.

WANTED: The August 22, 1958 issue — Volume 1, Number 7 — of SOCCER WORLD. The first to send me a copy will receive in return a free copy of SOCCER WORLD'S 1968 ANNUAL, soon to be published. — Paul Dean, Box 5066, GPO, Sydney, 2001.

Three young Prague starlets, RODNEY COOK, RAY ROOTSEY and CHRIS HILL, all passed their Leaving Certificate exams with distinction.

MANFRED SCHAEFER is undergoing a series of dental surgeries to repair his teeth which were badly damaged in a match late last year.

HERMAN EGBERS, the experienced Second Division utility player, has rejoined his former club, Balgownie.

PRAGUE's second grade squad starts training at 5.30 p.m. at Marks Field on Wednesday, January 31.

MANLY and CANTERBURY will meet in a trial match at Arlington Oval on Saturday.

SOUTH COAST and CROATIA played a scoreless draw in their trial match at Woonona last Sunday.

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Violence: steam-letting or just a giggle?

SOCCER RIOTS PREVENT GREATER EVIL — says a Brazilian

One of Brazil's leading soccer writers, Oswaldo Henrique, created a furore recently when he published an article, expressing his personal, highly controversial, views on the increasing violence at soccer throughout the world.

While we cannot agree with the writer's unorthodox views on a most serious problem, we are reproducing without comment the controversial article, which is nothing less than a plea for more violence.

"Soccer's bigwigs are reported to be very concerned about the dramatic increase of violence on football fields all over the world.

"Soccer writers are spreading the gospel of peace and goodwill to players in a bid to discourage them from using their fists.

"Spectators are also the target of officials and reporters who want to put a stop to rowdiness on the terraces.

"All those in authority are doing their utmost — at their level — to restore peace and order to the world's leading sport.

"But one cannot but wonder whether all these good intentions are a step in the right direction.

"Team sports are above all a substitute for war, and those who watch them do so to let off steam and dispel dreams of aggression which are stored up even in the meekest of us.

"The millions who crowd football stadiums the world over every weekend are really only there to purge themselves of pent-up emotions.

"They turn up to unload all the frustrations piled on during the week.

"During the working week they have to submit in a most unnatural manner to conformity, keeping quiet,

obeying bosses, disguising deep inner resentments by masking themselves behind a civilized facade.

"During the week, there's a demon in most of us desperately trying to break loose, but which must be rigidly restrained for economic and social necessity.

"Once through the turnstiles at the weekend, our social taboos allow people to revert to their primitive state.

"Losing their identity in an anonymous mass, they can be as irrational and vicious as they please.

"Seemingly intelligent men are free to yell like children, cheer like idiots and sing like imbeciles without the consequences such acts would incur in the 'outside' world.

"Gregarious instincts, tribal atavisms and regional or national prejudices are freely vented as thousands roar their encouragements to eleven champions bearing the name and wearing the colors of their locality (although invariably half the team at least comes from elsewhere).

"The visiting team — the enemy tribe — is made the scapegoat of communal hatred, and the referee — the symbol of authority — is the target for verbal insults one is obliged to hide from the boss, dominating parents or a bossy wife.

"Actually, the sum total of violence at soccer is very small when compared for instance, to the Bolshevik revolution, rugby (sic!) or the countless riots erupt-

ing almost daily all around the world.

"The 22 players generally limit themselves to such non-homicidal pastimes as spitting, kicks on the shins, stud-clawing and, occasionally, a good virile punch-up.

"The battle on the terraces is principally a verbal one, and physical exchanges — hampered by the restricted space — are usually nothing more than an elbow in the midriff, a misdirected punch or a bottle on the head, which more often than not misses its target.

"The occasional referee is assaulted, besieged or made the recipient of a wide range of projectiles.

"Those who passionately decry soccer's alleged violence would do well to think twice before they act too harshly to curb it.

"If an iron glove were clamped down on spectators at football matches, peace may be restored to the terraces.

"But it would be courting far greater disaster.

"The alternative might be racial riots, gang warfare, the revival of cruel blood sports, mugging, child cruelty and wife-beating.

"Is it not better to channel the frustrations of thousands to the soccer field?

"Let them scream, abuse, and occasionally engage in fistfights, as much as they like.

"A horrifying explosion, too dreadful to contemplate, may be set off if the safety valve provided by soccer is removed."

TRAIN-WRECKERS ARE JUST ORDINARY BLOKES — says an Aussie

"England may be World champions, but thank goodness our soccer prestige is not dependent on the fans on the terraces.

"If that were the case, we'd be also-rans..."

Harsh words, indeed, and more so considering they come from an English sports critic whose views could normally be described — and not unfairly — as bordering on Anglomania.

His scathing comments echo the concern in the UK over the behaviour — or lack of it — of followers of the round ball code.

Fights on the terraces, "sharp objects" thrown at visiting goalkeepers and train carriages wrecked by supporters travelling to and from matches.

HORSEPLAY

Such incidents are becoming routine at First and other division matches in England, and across the border in Scotland.

Or so we are led to believe.

Viewed from afar, these reports seem, to me at least, a little unreal.

Certainly, they run contrary to my experience of the average soccer supporter in the two-and-a-half years I spent in England.

Then, as now, rivalry was intense between the respective soccer "giants" of London and the North, and, in turn, their supporters.

But, on several trips I made from Manchester to see Matt Busby's "Babes" clash with Spurs, Chelsea and the like, I saw little which could be described as unruly, though there was certainly plenty of high-spirited "horseplay".

One such trip, when United were to meet Spurs, is still a vivid memory.

(It's interesting to digress, for a moment, to compare the loyalty of the English — or Scottish — soccer fan to our own.

Can you imagine a Pan Hellenic, or APIA, supporter travelling 200 miles to see their team play?

Well, that's exactly what fans in the UK do regularly — and think nothing of it.)

But to return to the trip. The United fans resembled a small army, albeit a bit bedraggled, as they queued up in the drizzling rain to board the train for London's Euston Station.

Their knowledge of the Manchester players was staggering, though I won't vouch for the authenticity of all I was told.

"Georgie Best, such a lovely laad," said a woman sitting opposite, "he's making a fortune from that boutique, you know".

"ALF GARNETT"

"Ay," said a gentleman who, in retrospect, might have been Alf Garnett, of "Till death do us part", "but he hasn't got the money of Denis Law. He's a canny Scot, that one."

By the time the train had passed through the heart of the Midlands, I felt I knew each and every player personally.

On reaching Euston, the horde of red-scarfed supporters streamed off the train, causing some little havoc among perplexed railway ticket inspectors.

Our arrival at White Hart Lane was no less auspicious (I had by this time been "adopted" as a fully-fledged



Mancunian, even if I had neglected to wear my rossette).

The "enemy" — Spurs' supporters — met us with the type of greeting traditionally accorded visitors, much booing and promises of the hammering Tottenham was to give Busby's players.

As it happened, the prognostications of the Spurs followers were accurate.

Not only did United lose, but they lost 5-1.

So it was a slightly chastened lot of Mancunians who boarded the train once again at Euston, but not for long.

"Wait till we get them at Old Trafford," said Alf Garnett's twin, "we'll give them Hotspurs."

And, though amid all the noise of the carriage I might have been mistaken, I'm certain he added "shut up, you silly old moo, now I've gorn and lost me fred" to a woman who had dared to mention that she thought Jimmy Greaves had had a marvellous match.

— Alan Speers

VICTORIANS LEAD TRANSFER FIELD

Victoria is Australia's soccer "import State".

This is clear from the latest ASF bulletin.

In 1967 the ASF received overseas clearances for 922 newly arrived players.

Of these 449 went to Victoria, 179 to Western Australia, 122 to NSW, 90 to

South Australia, 75 to Queensland and seven to the ACT.

Applications for these clearances were made by the ASF to 44 overseas countries.

The highest number was to England (429), but such "exotic" places as India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Uganda and Portuguese Timor also appear on the ASF list.

Also in 1967, the ASF has arranged 57 clearances for players who left Australia for overseas.

The highest number went to New Zealand (14), England (13) and Scotland (11).

Victoria also clearly leads the field in interstate clearances.

In 1967 the ASF approved 76 such transfers to Victoria, 43 to Western Australia, 31 to NSW, 27 to Queensland, 19 to South Australia, six to the ACT, four to Tasmania and two to Northern NSW.

MELITA EAGLES TO BANK ON YOUTH

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

The shock waves that rocked Melita Eagles down to its foundations at the Annual General Meeting last November have not rumbled in vain, and the newly elected administration has so far proved worthy of the trust confided in it.

Since then, the committee, from the President down, has embarked on building a better team for the future — long term and immediate — and completely discarded the piece-meal day-to-day struggle which financially bled the club white.

During the off-season, both the President, Vince Pisani, and the new secretary, Emanuel Said, together with all the help they could muster, have worked incessantly to have as many signatures of new players on the dotted line at the most reasonable cost.

Their efforts have achieved some very rich rewards that very few Sydney clubs can match, and include the bargain buying of Dave Goldie from Auburn, Casey De Bruin and Price (St. George) and Stefan Nemet and Laszlo Kovacs from Hungary — Wellington of New Zealand.

Nemet represented New Zealand in last year's South Vietnam National Day Tour-

namment where he scored five goals including one against Australia.

However, Melita's most important accomplishment was the signing of six of the most talented youngsters in the State, who last year played with the under-16 NSW squad: Wally Wollowszkykow, Gary Quested, Gordon Brennan, Bobby Smith, Derek Black and Graham Brown, together with another promising English youngster, Frank Whitfield.

Around these juniors the nucleus of Melita Eagles' first team will be formed.

Acquisition of these juniors is a personal triumph for the club's coach, Joe Vlasits, who since his appointment last year has clearly and frequently indicated to his administration that to succeed he must have young and willing talent.

To ensure that these youngsters get the proper attention, Melita Eagles have engaged Arthur Smith, an able and

persistent coach, to manage the reserves.

Nevertheless, and despite the team building, Melita may encounter considerable problems, not so much in their strengthened forward line, but in their "ageing" defence. Vlasits' skill and experience will have to be used to the fullest in filling any gaps which are bound to open in last year's reliable defence.

The Ampol Cup should enable Vlasits to select an effective combination which would be ready and prepared when the competition kicks off at the end of March.

Financially the club is stable and this is a remarkable achievement for a club in only its second year of First Division football, which had to spend considerable sums the last two years on new players.

Members and supporters will be happy to know that Melita have concluded arrangements to use Mona Park, Auburn, for all home competition matches during 1968.

Caledonian official seeks tours

New Caledonian official Guy Foulques is in Sydney negotiating for teams to play in Noumea this year.

Number One priority is clinching the NSW team for two midweek games in May.

For the season's end, he favors APIA and Hakoah, and quite possibly both of them.

Foulques stated that the New Caledonian League would be happy to consider a return NSW tour in the future, played over 10 days in Newcastle and Wollongong and main country towns.

Renewal of the youth series against NSW is another project in mind.

Unquestionably the team that New Caledonia wants to see is the NSW representative team, at full strength.

And the Federation could use those matches to blend its side and build team understanding for the big games ahead.

— Keith Gilmour

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AMPOL CUP HAS LONG HISTORY

— By PAUL DEAN —

Apart from the premierships, the Ampol Cup has been Sydney's most traditional and least changed annual soccer event.

It started in 1957, under the name of Kennard Cup, honoring the donor of a valuable trophy, Bill Kennard — until recently still a Corinthians official.

Ampol Petroleum Limited donated \$1,000 prize money to the placegetters, so their association with the Cup goes back to the very start — even if not in name.

The following year the series was still staged as Kennard Cup, once again with Ampol's financial backing, the same \$1,000.

From 1959 onwards, however, it has been known simply as the Ampol Cup, Sydney's traditional curtain-raiser to the season, with Ampol donating \$2,000 yearly.

Until 1966 it was always

held as a straight knock-out tournament.

In the last two years, however, a new format was used — and will again be used this year, — giving teams more chance to run into form.

The teams are divided into two groups where they play a round-robin; the top two then meet in the semi-final and the winners in the final.

In the last 11 years a total of 24 clubs have competed for the Ampol (Kennard) Cup; 13 gained a place but only six have managed to win it.

Prague's record is the most remarkable: they won the Cup five times and were placed four other times.

The placegetters in 1957-1967 were:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1957 Hakoah	Lane Cove	Canterbury	Sydney Austral
1958 Canterbury	Hakoah	Corrimal	Prague
1959 Prague	Auburn	Canterbury	Corrimal
1960 Budapest	APIA	Prague	Hakoah
1961 Prague	Hakoah	APIA	
		Canterbury	equal third
1962 Prague	Canterbury	APIA	Yugal
1963 Yugal	Auburn	APIA	Prague
1964 Prague	APIA	Budapest	Croatia
1965 Prague	Yugal	Metro	Hakoah
1966 APIA	Hakoah	Prague	Yugal
1967 St. George	Hakoah	APIA	Pan Hellenic

Rewarding a first place with 7 points, a second with 5, a third with 3 and a fourth with 1, this would be the order among the top teams in the Cup:

Prague 43 points.
Hakoah 29 points.
APIA 29 points.
Canterbury 21 points.
St. George 17 points.
Yugal 14 points.

Sydney Austral	2	—	4	10	16
Auburn	8	1	8	36	37
Prague	26	4	10	106	64
Lane Cove	2	—	1	3	4
Hakoah	22	3	11	75	55
Corrimal	5	—	3	26	16
Villawood	—	—	1	1	5
Concord	1	—	2	4	10
APIA	20	3	11	68	55
Canterbury	12	3	9	59	48
Gladesville	2	—	5	10	21
Bankstown	—	1	8	9	23
Polonia-North Side	1	1	8	7	21
St. George-Budapest	18	3	8	72	39
Balgownie	1	—	3	2	11
Granville	—	—	3	4	13
Manly	1	—	1	3	2
South Coast United	3	3	9	19	29
Pan Hellenic	3	5	8	22	26
Yugal	13	4	8	57	50
Croatia	7	2	9	27	38
Corinthians	—	3	2	3	7
Cumberland	1	1	9	9	30
Melita Eagles	2	1	2	4	5

Quite a few interesting observations can be made from these figures.

Percentage-wise Prague have the best record: they have won 70 per cent of the available "points."

But behind them, surprisingly, it is St. George who are close second with a 67 per cent result, ahead of Hakoah (65 per cent), APIA (63 per cent), and Yugal (60 per cent) and

Canterbury (56 per cent) not counting the decimals.

So Prague's top ranking in this series can be proved from all angles.

Other interesting points worth noting include:

● St. George-Budapest never conceded more than three goals in an Ampol Cup match — and even that only once; no other team can make such a proud claim.

(Except Lane Cove, Manly, Corinthians and Melita Eagles but these teams have played only a few matches).

● The highest number of goals scored in a match were by Canterbury (against Concord) and St. George (against Cumberland) — eight.

● Pan Hellenic are the "draw specialists" with five ties to their credit.

● Corrimal fared a great deal better than their successors: they won five

and lost three matches while South Coast's record is three won, three drawn and nine lost.

● Villawood, Bankstown, Granville and Corinthians have never won an Ampol Cup match; Bankstown's is the most dismal record with eight losses and one draw out of nine outings.

● St. George forwards have been the most prolific scorers — after Prague, that is — in 29 games they netted 72 times while APIA, for example, scored 68 in 34 games, a precise average of two a match.

● Polonia North Side's Ampol record is almost in the "Bankstown class": 10 matches for eight defeats.

● Pan Hellenic, never really a "cup team," have a "negative" Ampol record, largely due to their goal-shy forwards: in their 16 games they scored one goal or none 12 times.

FACTS ABOUT THE AMPOL CUP

The 12 competing clubs in the Ampol Cup have been divided into two groups, which are:

Group "A": APIA, Manly, Canterbury, Prague, Croatia, Melita Eagles.

Group "B": Pan Hellenic, South Coast United, Hakoah, Polonia-NS, St. George, Yugal.

The same points system as in the past two seasons will again apply in 1968: the winner will be awarded 12 points, the loser nil and teams will share five points each for a draw.

A bonus point will be awarded for every goal.

The leading two teams in each group at the completion of the preliminary round-robins will qualify for the semifinals, which will be played as a knock-out.

The winner of the Sydney Ampol Cup final will play a home-and-away series against the Melbourne winner on March 22 in Melbourne and on March 24 in Sydney.

The Marks Field is definitely out for Friday night Ampol Cup matches.

These will be played at the Sydney Showground, starting with this Friday's double-header.

Despite some drawbacks, the Showground has the big advantage of accommodating some 12,000 people under cover in comfort as well as providing plenty of parking space in the RAS grounds.

Aust. pulls out of Merdeka Cup

Australia will not take part in this year's Merdeka Tournament even if invited.

This was decided at the Executive Meeting of the ASF in Melbourne last week.

The ASF has accepted an invitation to return to Saigon for the Vietnam National Day Tournament in November instead.

When asked to explain this shock decision, Federation

secretary, Ian McAndrew, declined to comment.

"I have been instructed not to release the news nor to comment," he said.

● Watch next week's SOCCER WORLD for our views on the ASF's short-sighted decision to once again bypass the Merdeka Tournament.

TRANSFER LISTINGS

Here are the transfer tags on some of the better-known Sydney players who were listed for transfer:

APIA: Hughes \$6,000, Watkiss \$8,000, Giacometti \$4,000.

CANTERBURY: Clarke \$2,000, Margeit \$2,000, Hardie \$1,500, Jamieson \$1,500, Hood \$5,000.

HAKOAH: Wilson \$1,800.

MELITA EAGLES: Mulqueeney \$800, Jaros \$2,000.

PAN HELLENIC: Patrinos \$1,000, Rademacher \$500, Tamandl \$1,400.

SOUTH COAST: Strachan \$500, Tolson \$5,000, Paterson \$4,000.

CROATIA: Reynolds, \$4,000, Collazzo \$1,500, Massey \$1,200, R. Fraser \$800.

ST. GEORGE: W. Todd \$800.

PRAGUE: Bond \$1,000, Gauto \$3,000, Hoare \$800, Hrnir \$800, Povey \$2,500.

CUMBERLAND: Fernie \$1,000, Keenan \$1,500, Haggitt \$400, Addison \$600.

Brotherhood ends as clubs fight for Abonyi

— By PAUL DEAN —

Antagonism, for months dormant between St. George-Budapest and Melbourne Hungaria SC, this week broke out in open hostility.

The battle for young forward Attila Abonyi is now on in earnest.

A Melbourne HSC official this week rang Saints' President Les Bordacs and accused his club of "poaching" Abonyi, threatening to "take action."

A heated phone conversation followed, and ended abruptly when a receiver was slammed down in anger.

It now seems certain that relations between the sister clubs will get a lot worse before they may start getting any better.

It is understood that some Melbourne HSC officials have openly stated that "Abonyi can rot for ever but will never get a transfer, no matter where he goes to live."

They also claim that St. George has never "officially" approached them for Abonyi — despite the fact that for some two months now there have been almost continuous discussions between the clubs about the player who, on top of it, also officially announced to HSC his intentions of moving to Sydney.

It's likely that the Abonyi-affair may turn into the greatest tragi-comedy of Australian soccer in which everybody suffers and nobody gains.

These are the known attitudes of the interested parties as of this week:

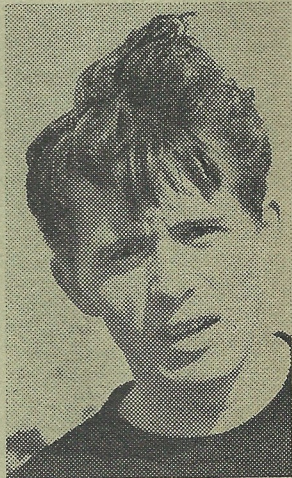
ATTILA ABONYI: He is determined to come to Sydney on February 25, the day after his wedding — and stay; arrangements are being made to secure a flat and a job for him in his trade as a fashion cutter.

To anybody interested in his views, Abonyi has repeatedly announced his wish to move to Sydney, join St. George and settle down here.

MELBOURNE HSC: The "hawks" advocate the sidelining of Abonyi indefinitely, if necessary, while the "doves" would prefer a compromise — lending him to St. George for two years or so.

Despite the traditional good relations between the two warring clubs, Melbourne HSC is certain to slap a sizeable transfer fee on the player — if and when they finally agree to his request.

ST. GEORGE: They claim that Abonyi approached them, not the other way round; that they promptly notified Melbourne HSC of their interest and, in fact, received an assurance that "if we let him go, he can only go to



ATTILA ABONYI
... centre of dispute

your club." Knowing the firm intention of Abonyi to settle in Sydney for a number of reasons — some of them personal — St. George feel that it is not only their right but duty to accommodate the young Hungarian-born player.

VICTORIAN FEDERATION: Late last year they arbitrarily imposed an interstate transfer ban on all Melbourne players for one year who appeared in representative teams.

However, they see nothing wrong with signing Australian representative players from other States.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION: To this date they have been sitting on the fence, neither recognising nor repudiating the right of Victoria to enforce legislation which affects clubs and States outside their jurisdiction.

And finally, a legal opinion:

A player would stand a bright chance if he sued his club for refusing him permission to change his abode and pursue his trade or profession elsewhere.

Similarly, if challenged, the Australian Federation would probably have to rule that no one State has the constitutional right to pass and enforce legislation which has an adverse bearing on the fortunes of clubs in other States.

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Prague v Croatia — Showground, 7.30 p.m.
Melita Eagles v. APIA — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Polonia-NS v. St. George — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.
Pan Hellenic v. Yugal — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Pan Hellenic v. Polonia-NS — Showground, 7.30 p.m.
South Coast v. Hakoah — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Manly v. Canterbury — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.
APIA v. Prague — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

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MINNOWS POISED FOR UPSETS IN CUP OPENERS

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Prague, five time winners of the Ampol Cup, and Croatia have the honor of kicking off in the 1968 inter-club competition when they meet at the Showground at 7.30 p.m. on Friday night.

The late match of Friday's Ampol Cup double-header will be between Melita Eagles and APIA, the 1966 winners.

The first round of the series continues on Sunday with another double-header at Wentworth Park, starting at 2.15 p.m.

St. George, the undefeated 1967 Cup winners, clash with Polonia in the early game, followed by the appearance of Yugal, another Ampol winner (1963), against Pan Hellenic, a semifinalist in 1967.

Our previews of this weekend's opening Cup games:

Prague v. Croatia

Prague, who have been training since December, should be in much better nick than their opponents, whose ranks at the moment are depleted.

complemented by the fine "imports", Hoggart, Blanco and Czechoslovakian international, Molnar. Prague's attack could sparkle Friday night.

Luckily for Croatia their defence will almost be intact.

It might have to carry the whole weight of the burden as they can't expect miracles from a forward line which needs a lot of bolstering before the competition gets under way.

Prague's undoubted edge in attack should see the former Ampol Cup specialists through tonight to a win — and perhaps even a comfortable one at that.

On the spacious Showground surface Prague's talented forwards are capable of turning in an attractive display to get the 1968 Ampol Cup under way in fine style.

APIA v. Melita Eagles

Melita Eagles cannot feel too confident about the outcome of Friday's late match.

A fortnight ago they were by an AIPA team which bore thrashed 6-0 in a trial match little resemblance to their 1967 premiership-winning combination.

This time APIA will almost certainly field a stronger team as most of their recalcitrant star players are reported to have patched up their differences with the management earlier this week.

Their line-up against Melita, however, is something of a question mark as there are some doubts about the fitness of some players.

But one thing is pretty certain: whichever APIA team takes the field it should be too experienced and strong all round for Melita Eagles.

Melita will field the same reliable defence which stood its ground creditably last season, but their forward-line again is an unknown quantity.

The Melita attack will have to show marked improvement on last year's performances to even hope to unsettle their opponents.

APIA, irrespective of how they take the field, should win, and win well.



RON CORRY (Croatia)

...starred for Australia in Saigon

St. George v. Polonia

Normally one should not have to hesitate to forecast a relatively comfortable win for St. George-Budapest here.

Their great 1967 season entitles Saints to the greatest respect, but they have their problems at the start of 1968.

Their main worry is the staleness of some key players, who hardly enjoyed a break for 12 months.

Instead of returning to the fray refreshed, the fatigue of a heavy local season and overseas tours seem to have caught up with them.

Schaefer and Cliss were a case in point against Dallas Tornado last week.

Both were out of form, tired and disenchanted when their only worry at this stage of the season should have been an understandably poor physical condition.

Polonia, on the other hand, will come out fresh and rested, and since they have the same team as last year, they will have no problems of adaptation.

Their always reliable defence may relish the slower than usual pace of the St. George attack, which might have to rely heavily on Schaefer and Fernandez to pull the fat out of the fire.

Polonia will rely on star forwards, Minol and Krawiarz for a shock result.

Minol, one of last year's star Sydney forwards, in particular will be a constant thorn in the side of Saints' defence — which will sorely miss Isaac and Stegbauer.

Past form and results demand we tip a St. George victory, but a draw is a distinct possibility, especially

since skipper Johnny Warren will be missing in the St. George attack.

Pan Hellenic v. Yugal

The eggs here seem to be all in the one basket, with the odds stacked in Pan Hellenic's favor.

Pan Hellenic may continue where they left off last year when they showed their best form in the latter part of the season.

They look stronger both in defence and in attack, but Yugal always perform creditably against Pan Hellenic and seem to handle their whirlwind style better than most.

Devoid of new signings at this stage, Yugal must make the most of the material at their disposal to stand a chance on Sunday.

They must try to dictate the pace of the game from the midfield where they are the strongest with Dunaj and Rafaneli.

If they allow the effervescent Westwater a midfield grip, they are doomed.

Yugal will have to cut off the flow of passes Westwater is bound to direct towards his forwards, otherwise they will be run off their feet by a forward-line which can be deadly when things go their way.

Pan Hellenic's attack, however, has so many off-days, that Yugal are far from beaten if they use their more technical, tactical style to good advantage.

It would not be reasonable to go so far as to expect Yugal to win, but they certainly can make a go of it and fully extend Pan Hellenic, who still have to win any sort of a trophy after seven years of First Division.

PROBABLE TEAMS

ST. GEORGE v. POLONIA

HAFLEY	1	BOUT
SANDELL	2	ADDISON
HILLARY	3	SKIBA
SCHAEFER	4	BAKER
MORGAN	5	KULAK
ZUCKERMAN	6	KOMODER
McCUE	7	HALL
CLISS	8	URBANIAK
McCOLGAN	9	MINOL
FERNANDEZ	10	KRAWIARZ
SCHAUMAN	11	GAIK
Referee: N. JONES.		

APIA v. MELITA EAGLES

TAYLOR	1	EATON
NUTTALL	2	HUNTER
ACKERLEY	3	WOODS
HUGHES	4	FALZON
VAN BLERK	5	CILIA
BOTTALICO	6	HEWLETT
KEDDIE	7	NEMET
CAMPANA	8	GOLDIE
WATKISS	9	AZZOPARDI
BLUE	10	MULLAN
TELFER	11	BANKHEAD
Referee: K. LOCKREY.		

PRAGUE v. CROATIA

KING	1	CORRY
HARCOMBE	2	LINCOLN
TRACEY	3	SLOAN
ROOTSEY	4	CURRY
BLACKER	5	SHEPHERD
SCHEINFLUG	6	SNEDDEN
ARMYTAGE	7	BARBOUTIS
G. MANUEL	8	R. CUSH
BLANCO	9	FRAKES
MOLNAR	10	GILES
HOGGART	11	J. YAAGER
Referee: A. FARAONE.		

PAN HELLENIC v. YUGAL

CLARKE	1	PETROU
JOHNSTON	2	CRNICH
HIGNETT	3	NACINOVIC
WESTWATER	4	DUNAJ
MALLARD	5	BANICEVIC
McCULLOCH	6	RAFANELI
BLITZ	7	J. ALAGICH
SMITH	8	LALIC
LARAMAN	9	HALPIN
KARYANNIS	11	BOBIC
OMEROS	11	EDWARDS
Referee: H. PARSONS.		



BRIAN LINCOLN (Croatia)

Against the talented young Prague, new coach Zanetic will have a tough introduction in this his first coaching assignment.

Great things are expected of the youthful Prague this season.

This weekend their defence will be under-strength as Moulson and Zeman may not be available, but young Rootsey and Tracey are able substitutes and Prague's defence should not pale in comparison with their forward-line, their strongest division.

Led by Larry Armytage, the revelation of 1967 who should confirm his budding talent this season, and the aggressive Gary Manuel, and

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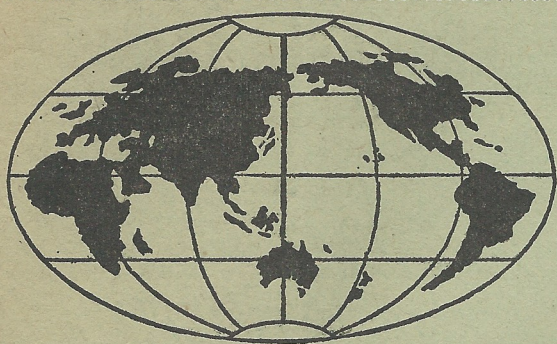
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ROUND THE WORLD

Finance Minister speaks out

The Italian Finance Minister, Luigi Preti, declared two weeks ago he was opposed to lifting the ban on foreign players joining Italian clubs. Italy, he said, cannot afford at this stage to part with valuable dollars, the currency used throughout the world for transfers. Preti's statement is interpreted as a sign that the three-year embargo will be enforced for at least another two seasons, much to the annoyance of the big Italian clubs who were already planning to sign up the likes of Beckenbauer, Eusebio, Muller and Real Madrid's Pirri.

Some "amateurs"!

The Russians have formed a permanent, all the year round, national squad. The country's 22 top players will be on national team duty for about 240 days of the year under coach Mikhail Yakushin. No player will be allowed to play more than 12 matches for his club during the season. The national team is scheduled to play a total of 35 to 40 matches a year. Although the revolutionary Russian program is the closest to full professionalism any national team has ever attempted, they are still regarded as "amateurs" and will be allowed to compete at the Olympics!

All-British group opposed

The British Associations are pressing for an all-British qualifying group in the World Cup. They want to see Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Eire grouped together. The move is strongly opposed by most European Associations who feel that none of the four teams is strong enough to warrant an automatic berth at Mexico. Indications are that FIFA's World Cup committee in Casablanca next week won't go along with the British recommendation.

African hopes

Soccer is booming in Africa, particularly in Kinshasa-Congo, Ghana and the Ivory Coast where league matches regularly draw 30,000 to 50,000 spectators. The Africans are hopeful that at the 1970 World Cup one of their teams will provide the major shock the North Koreans had caused in England.

Rivera tops Italian poll

A referendum to find Italy's top sportsman for 1967 gave first place to AC Milan star forward, Gianni Rivera, who polled 35 per cent of the votes. Gimondi, the cyclist was second with 20 per cent, followed by Inter Milan's Mazzola, third; boxer Benvenuti and another two soccer players — Torino's French international, Combin, and brilliant winger Pascutti of Bologna.



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Even in Brazil, there is only one Pele . . . The average international earns about \$550 a month, including bonuses; the average First Division player earns \$185, in the Second Division \$95 per month. This is the reason why so many talented players leave Brazil every year.

● Ronnie Simpson, Celtic's veteran Scottish international goalkeeper, has published a book — "It's a grand club" — an autobiography packed with amusing incidents from Simpson's checkered 22-year-old career.

● The 1968-69 English season will kick-off on August 3 — two weeks earlier than usual.

● The East German amateur team has started an Asian tour, hot on the heels of West Germany's amateur XI. The West Germans were undefeated in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand. West Germany's final match resulted in a 1-0 win against Japan at Tokyo last Tuesday week.

● The following teams are taking part in the current 21-day international tournament at Santiago, Chile: Racing Buenos Aires, Santos, Vasas Budapest, Universidad Chile, Colo Colo and the national teams of East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

● Jackie Charlton, too, has published a book, entitled "For Leeds and Country," in which he admits he would not hesitate to employ any means to win. Writes Charlton: "I wouldn't think twice to resort to brute force to prevent an opponent from scoring a goal."

● Sweden will play two matches against the Israeli national team in Tel Aviv at the end of next month. The Swedes will be Israel's "sparring partners" before they tackle North Korea and Burma in an Olympic qualifying group to be played in Israel in March.

● Lev Yashin, the crack Russian goalie, ranks the best goalies he ever saw thus: 1 Grosics (Hungary), 2 Beara (Yugoslavia), 3 Sarti (Italy), 4 Banks (England), 5 Soskic (Yugoslavia).

● AS Roma manager Pugliese has been awarded the Italian title of "cavaliere," and may even have a higher honor bestowed on him at the close of his career in a couple of years.

● Bena, Hannover's Yugoslav halfback, returned home to join OFK Belgrade.

● Otto Gloria is tipped to replace Fernando Riera as Benfica's coach later this month. Gloria, a Brazilian, managed Benfica two years ago after an unsuccessful stint in France with Marseille.

● Napoli's young goalkeeper Zoff has been awarded Italy's Combi Prize which every year rewards the country's top custodian. The award is named after the famous goalie who won the World Cup with Italy in 1934 and 1938.

● Yet another French professional club may disband — the 11th since World War II. This time it's the old FC Rouen which is in dire straits, facing bankruptcy, and almost certain to be dissolved at the end of the season.

● East Germany's new coach is Manfred Seeger, the former coach of champion team Vorwaerts Berlin. Seeger replaces Karoly Soos, who resigned to manage the Hungarian national team.

● Boca Juniors, the crack Buenos Aires club, are still very much interested in buying the Benfica international winger, Simoes. Club president, Hector Armando, is flying to Lisbon this week to have talks with Benfica officials. While in Portugal he may also offer deposed coach, Fernando Riera, a contract.

● Madrid has a new soccer weekly: "A.S." Circulation after four weeks has already climbed to 45,000 copies.

● AS Roma will stage an international tournament at Easter. Inter Milan, Milan AC, Benfica and Manchester United have been invited.

● Largest attendance at any European Cup match since the start of the 1967-68 Champions' and Cup-winners' Cups was at Chorzow, Poland, where 100,000 saw Gornik Zabrze draw 1-1 with Dynamo Kiev to eliminate the Russians from the Champions' Cup.

● Thomas Nordahl, 18-year-old son of the famous Gunnar Nordahl, is also a player of some promise. Nordahl junior is sought after by Swiss clubs, Chaux-de-Fonds and FC Basel.

● Altona, Hamburg's regional league club, has the oldest president in West German soccer: 82-year-old Heinrich Wunner, who was elected last month.

● Bangu's latest sensation is 25-year-old inside-right Jayme. The husky Negro played a big part in Bangu's second position in the Rio competition and was named Brazil's "most useful club player of the year."

● Di Stefano, who now coaches the First Division Spanish club, Elche, was injured in a car smash after Christmas. The former Real Madrid world-beater came out unscathed apart from two broken teeth.

● Rangers will meet Benfica at Bulawayo in three months' time in a special match to celebrate the Rhodesian city's founding.

● Celtic, too, will visit Africa soon. The 1966-67 European champions have been invited to tour East Africa. They will play a series of matches in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

● Helenio Herrera has sued an Italian journalist for allegedly punching him on the chest after a recent competition match.

● The Brazilian Oswaldo Brandao has been retained as Independiente Buenos Aires' coach. Independiente won the Argentinian First Division title in 1967.

● Newly capped England stopper David Sadler may have to drop out of Manchester United. The reason: with Stiles and Law now back, there may be no room for the versatile Sadler.

● Musil, coach of the Czech Dukla Prague, showers praise on the Japanese standards following a recent visit there with his team.

● English Fourth Division club Watford have made a surprising decision: they will change their name to Honved and also adopt the emblem of the Hungarian club.

● Famous FIFA referee Istvan Zsolt may succeed the late Gyorgy Honti as Secretary-General of the Hungarian FA.

● West Ham's reserve goalkeeper Jim Standen has joined an American club.

● Glasgow's Hampden Park is already a sell-out for the February 24 Scotland v. England match — 145,000 tickets in all.

● In their last tour match in South America, Hungary drew 3-3 with Boca Juniors in a friendly.

West German crowds

FC Nurnberg, the runaway leaders, averaged 42,300 spectators at their home matches at the halfway mark of the West German Bundesliga competition. Then came Hannover 96 (31,800 spectators), VfB Stuttgart (30,300), KC Koln (29,500), Borussia Dortmund (28,000) and Werder Bremen (26,800). Neunkirchen attracted the least people at home: 10,900. The weekly average for all Bundesliga matches at the halfway mark was 24,300 spectators, some 5,000 less than the record set in 1965.

Brazil plans well ahead

A three-man commission has been appointed to steer Brazil to World Cup glory in 1970. Messrs. Havelange, Almeida and Braga will form a "troika" with sweeping powers. Brazil's preparations will start two and a half years ahead of the Mexico finals. On June 9 and 12 this year they will meet Uruguay in Rio. Later in June, Brazil will play four matches in Europe: against France, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, followed by a brief African tour (Angola and Mozambique).

TV saves neck

Without that fat TV contract, American pro soccer would surely fold up. Last season the highest average attendance was that of San Francisco Gales (the new club of Ferenc Puskas) with 5,422 spectators.

England's "bad boys"

Interesting English statistics reveal that in the last five years First Division players have been better behaved than their counterparts from the lower professional divisions. Since 1962, 52 First Division players have been sent off as against 56 in Division II, 55 in Division III and 73 in Division IV. As 223,204 matches have been played in the last five years, the percentage of sent off players is still only a reasonable 1 per cent despite the increasing rowdiness in English soccer.

SCOREBOARD

BELGIUM: FC Liege v. Racing 1-0; FC Bruges v. Daring 4-1; Beringen v. FC Malines 3-0; Anderlecht v. Antwerp 5-0; Olympic Charleroi v. Standard Liege 1-2; Beveren v. St. Trond 3-1. Lierse v. Waregem and Beerschot v. Charleroi Sporting postponed.

FRANCE: Strasbourg v. Valenciennes 0-1; Sochaux v. Ajaccio 3-1; Marseilles v. Red Star 2-0; Rennes v. Lille 4-1; Sedan v. Rouen 2-0; Angers v. Lyon 3-1; Monaco v. Aix 1-1; St. Etienne v. Nantes 1-2.

GREECE: Panathinaikos v. Prodeftiki 0-0; Ethnikos v. Olympiakos 2-2; AEK v. Vyzas 6-1; Panelefsiniakos v. Aris 0-1; PAOK v. Apollon 1-1; Heraklis v. Olympiakos Volos 2-0; Panseriakos v. Panionios 0-2; Pierikos v. Olympiakos Cyprus 1-1; Veria v. Aegaleo 0-0.

HOLLAND: ADO v. Go Ahead 0-0; Fortuna v. Telstar 1-1; NAC v. DOS 1-1; Ajax v. Feyenoord 1-1 (abandoned because of fog); NEC v. Volendam 2-2; Sparta v. DWS 1-1 (abandoned because of fog); Xerxes v. Sittardia 2-0; PSV v. MVV 0-3; Twente v. GVAV 1-2.

ITALY: Atalanta v. Napoli 1-0; Bologna v. Samp-

doria 0-0; Cagliari v. Brescia 3-0; Mantova v. Juventus 0-0; Milan v. Spal 3-2; Roma v. Inter 2-6; Torino v. Vicenza 1-0; Varese v. Fiorentina 0-0.

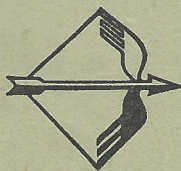
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid v. Cordoba 5-0; Sevilla v. Malaga 0-2; Real Sociedad v. Real Madrid 0-1; Espanol v. Barcelona 1-0; Valencia v. Sabadell 1-0; Atletico Bilbao v. Elche 3-0; Zaragoza v. Pontevedra 2-1.

WEST GERMANY: Eintracht Brunswick v. VfB Stuttgart 2-1; Borussia Neunkirchen v. MSV Duisburg 2-1; Borussia Dortmund v. Hannover 96 3-1; Borussia Moenchengladbach v. Werder Bremen 3-1; Eintracht Frankfurt v. FC Kaiserslautern 5-2; Hamburger SV v. FC Nurnberg 3-1; Karlsruher SC v. Alemannia Aachen 2-4; Munchen 1860 v. Schalke 04 1-2; 1 FC Koln v. Bayern Munchen 3-3.

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CROATIA MAY BE FIRST TO REACH CUP SEMIS

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

The third round the Ampol Cup looms up this Friday as a major attraction with two more crackerjack games at Olympic Park.

The program is: JUST v. Croatia at 7.45 p.m., and Juventus v. George Cross at 9.10 p.m.

JUST v. Croatia

Croatia, who slammed league champions and Australia Cup winners Melbourne in the opening round, have a grand chance of being the first side to reach the semi-finals; if they beat JUST, they are all but home.

In the second game Juventus will have to pull up their socks and show a big improvement on their display against Hakoah if they hope

Both teams play a distinctly different brand of soccer.

JUST have for years played and cultivated the short passing game both in defence and attack in building up their moves.

Croatia are experts and exponents of this in attack but in defence they differ greatly from their opponents and in fact have recently employed the 4-2-4 system under new coach Michael Kiss.

If JUST take a good grip of the game right from the kick-off, they have a chance of collecting their first points and keeping their hopes of qualifying for the semis alive.

If they allow Croatia to get into top gear from the start, then Croatia have a sound chance of laying the foundations for a win and almost ensuring a place in the last four.

Unless Croatia show a complete reversal of the form they displayed against Melbourne, they should win through although it won't be easy.

Juventus v. George X

The loss of half a team and a disastrous opening against Hakoah can hardly have instilled confidence in Juventus who have an obvious

problem at centre half since the way-going of ace pivot George Scott.

However, Juventus are not as black as they have been painted and if keeper Voigt has recovered his form and the attack shows more enterprise and grabs even half their scoring chances, Juventus need not be pessimistic about their future.

They must, however, bring more co-ordination into their side instead of just having 11 units running about with all too little purpose.

George Cross should be much more optimistic this year.

They show definite signs of a revival of the form which had made them one of the outstanding sides in Victorian soccer over the years.

One problem may confront them for this game.

Sanchez, to face the Disciplinary Committee after his ordering off against Hellas, will have to await his fate.

If he is not available, then it seems likely that John Brown will step into the breach which may mean some positional change.

I fancy George Cross can take a step nearer the semis by winning here as they are more potent and decisive up front.

MELBOURNE RESULTS

Micic spoils fine record

— By BOB LOW —

Frank Micic, the Australian vice-captain playing his first competitive match for South Melbourne Hellas after transferring from JUST for a record Australian transfer fee, was sent off in the second half of the game with George Cross along with John Sanchez the Cross inside forward, after a clash between the pair.

This is the first time in his eight seasons in State League soccer that Micic has received his marching orders.

In fact, previously he had never been cautioned and is a dual "Argus Best and Fairest Award" winner.

Sanchez is the former Slavia and Pan Hellenic player.

The Ampol Cup crowds show a steady and healthy increase.

In the opening round the official attendance was 7012; last Friday 8,552 went through the turnstiles with receipts of over \$6,600.

The results were:

Footscray JUST 1 (A. Kazi) v. Slavia 3 (Savage, Goodwin, Reid).

SM Hellas 1 (Ackerley) v. George Cross 1 (Campbell).

Slavia sparkle

Cup-holders Slavia got off to a flying start with a good win over JUST.

Physically stronger, and with an undoubted pull in defence, Slavia got off their marks early when they notched a goal after five minutes.

Five minutes later, JUST squared the game and it

was not until the second half that Slavia drove home their superiority with two more goals to make certain of full points.

George Cross impress

George Cross were somewhat unlucky to finish up with only a division of points and had Wenzl not been in top form in the Hellas goal they would have made an auspicious start to 1968.

As it was, George Cross showed plenty of sparkle especially in attack where their mainspring was right-winger Archie Campbell, back to his brilliant best.

The George Cross defence needs tightening up and it may be just as well for them that the Hellas attack was well under par.

The game had plenty to shout about although it got tough in the closing stages and Ackerley was lucky to receive only a caution when he felled Sacco.

Referee Armstrong had an unhappy night and George Cross had a legitimate grouse on two occasions when they were "robbed" of chances by the referee failing to apply the advantage rule.

COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

Victoria's new team boss John Barclay, who was co-manager of Australia's all-conquering team on their Asian tour late last year, has announced the names of 25 players who have started training under coach Mike De Bruyckere in preparation for the two interstate matches against NSW.

The matches are provisionally set down for March 22 and 24, one in Melbourne and one in Sydney.

The resumption of matches between the two leading States is already provoking great interest and much speculation, at least in Melbourne where the clash is likely to prove a cut-throat affair as they hope to prove their superiority over NSW. The 25-man Victorian squad is likely to be considerably whittled down to size and additions may be made before the first game.

At least half a dozen players are surprise inclusions and I won't embarrass those by naming them.

They did nothing noteworthy in 1967 to justify even consideration.

Another half dozen including Tony Hughes the scoring JUST centre, John Sanchez, the George Cross wing half, Jimmy Millar, the Juventus wing half, or inside-forward, Colin Myers the Melbourne left-winger, Horst Rau, the Croatia wing half and Bill McGowan, the Melbourne fullback can, after their fine showings last season, be disappointed at their omission.

The 25 players are:

Goalkeepers: Willem Schroif (Slavia), Henri Surma (Melbourne).

Fullbacks: George Keith (Hakoah), David High (Slavia).

Wing halves: Frank Micic (Hellas), Tom Randles (Slavia), David Baker (Hakoah), John Bedford (Hellas), Ian Shanks (Melbourne), Jock Goodwin (Slavia).

Stoppers: Dick Van Alphen (Hakoah), Billy Cook (Slavia), Alistair Scott (Melbourne).

Forwards: Elysses Kokinos (Hellas), Attila Abonyi (Melbourne), Jim Armstrong (Hakoah), Ernie Ackerley (Hellas), Boulas Kamboropolous (Hellas), Ian Reid (Slavia), Bill Vojtek (Croatia), Stan Atkins (Wilhelmina), Jim McKay (Croatia), Bob Wyatt (Wilhelmina), Leo Damaniakos (Hellas), Hammy McMeechan (Croatia).

Trial game

Two teams from the 25 players will show their paces in a match which will be labelled Victorian XI v. State League Select and which is set down for Olympic Park on January 29 (Monday), the Australia Day holiday.

Unless injury or a complete loss of form besets the players, I reckon the following are certainties for the first game with NSW: Schroif, Keith, Vojtek and Abonyi — if he decides to stay put in Melbourne.

Ottie for Sydney

You can take it from the horse's mouth that Attila Abonyi, the star inside-forward of Melbourne HSC and Australia will be heading for Sydney to settle at the end of this month.

Melbourne are adamant that Abonyi will not be granted a transfer or be able to kick a ball in competitive soccer in Sydney.

They have made this crystal clear and a leading official of the Melbourne HSC recently told me that this would apply even if the Victorian Soccer Federation were to lift their embargo barring players who have played for Australia moving to another State within a year.

Irrespective of rumors, Melbourne have not had one single official approach from St. George-Budapest or any other club in Sydney for Abonyi's transfer.

And they are not prepared to listen to any future offer which may be made.

So it seems that the position with club and player is deadlocked with only a slight hope and perhaps none of a reconciliation between the pair.

It won't make the position any easier when Abonyi does in fact move to Sydney.

Melbourne, although not wealthy, are bound to be further upset by the distinct possibility that their player will be the subject of "tapping" by perhaps more than one club.

And this could make their attitude even more harder towards Abonyi's request for a transfer.

Joe Abonyi, brother of Ottie who has been, like his brother, seven years with Melbourne, is reported to be interesting another State League club and I believe is on the verge of also asking for a transfer.

Joe, a useful wing-half, had quite a number of first team games for Melbourne a few years back when the club was struggling.

Keenan is back

Joe Keenan, the former Hakoah and Croatia left-winger who had transferred to Cumberland last season and has been back in Melbourne for some time now, was a late signing for George Cross and turned out for his new club against South Melbourne Hellas. A fee of over \$1,000 is reported to have changed hands for Keenan.

Coaches on a winner

The Victorian Soccer Coaches Federation stages its first major event late this month with a preliminary coaching course which looks an assured success even before it starts.

Close on 100 applications have been received from all over Victoria for the four-week course which is scheduled to begin on January 23 and goes right through until February 2.

The first half of the course will consist of theory classes by the staff, then the candidates will be asked to put this into practice.

Exams will be held on February 20 and 23 and those successful in passing out will receive preliminary coaching certificates which will be recognised by both the ASF and FIFA.

The course will be held at the Monash University sports centre where the facilities are first class.

Cost of the course is a mere \$10.

STARS STAY PUT

(★ Continued from P. 1)

"We realise we have problems," Eddie Provera said, "but we intend to work towards building a balanced side over a period of about two years.

"This will probably mean that the success which has come our way might be absent for a time.

"But we are confident that it's the right policy.

"As for the players unwilling to agree to the terms offered them, they should remember that they are getting no younger.

"Experience is a great thing, and in many walks of life usually entitles a person to greater remuneration.

"But in soccer it's different. Experience is not the be all and end all of everything.

"It's time that the clubs stood up to their players, as we need to achieve a reasonable balance."

The wrangle over finance is just the latest occurrence in a chapter of misfortune for APIA in the past 12 months.

On the field, it was obvious to many keen observers that the team was on the decline . . . even before last season's losses in the Sydney Grand Final to St. George-Budapest, and to the latter's sister club, Melbourne HSC, in the Australia Cup.

Like a lot of other great teams, in all codes of football, APIA seem to have become old before their time, and quite suddenly.

On the credit side, officials expect two more overseas players — one from Argentina, the other from Italy — to arrive in Australia within the next few weeks.

Whatever the outcome of the dispute, it seems that APIA's fans, accustomed to feasting on the caviare of soccer success, might just have to settle — for the time being, at least — on plain, everyday hash.

LATEST — In typical Sydney fashion, events moved with lightning speed in the so-called APIA crisis. Players and management got together last Monday night and it now appears most of the disputes have been resolved. Hughes, Ackerley, Taylor and Watkiss are reported to have resolved their problems with the club, and the quartet is even likely to play Friday night. Giacometti was still recalcitrant at press time, but he, too, is expected to reach an agreement with APIA soon. An amicable reconciliation was reached when both parties showed willingness to compromise.

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TORNADOES FAIL TO EVEN STIR THE AIR

If the Dallas Tornadoes help popularising soccer in the USA, the American public is more gullible than anyone ever imagined.

Judging by their sterile display against a shocking Sydney XI, the oil millionaire backers of the Dallas team must have really been desperate for a quick investment.

How they got landed with this soccer team seems to be a riddle.

The Tornadoes, made up almost entirely of nondescript British and Scandinavian ex-amateurs, are a colorless, dull, rather unimaginative team.

Some of their players — not too many, at that — are capable fellows with fair to good ball sense and control but the others would struggle to make a Sydney First Division side.

What was the most horrible about them, though, was the incredible fact that in the first half, after scoring in the 3rd minute through an elementary mistake by Corry, they retreated into a blanket defence, not even trying to cross the halfway mark.

For some 42 tedious minutes the Tornadoes were content to defend with precisely 11 men, reminding one of a tennis player who maniacally sticks to the baseline even when there is a chance to storm the net.

It doesn't speak volumes for the Sydney XI that in that first half, despite a non-stop "onslaught" of 42 minutes, they could not score once.

In the second half the Tornadoes were more inclined to come out of their defensive

stance — and almost scored a couple of times.

However, their game almost throughout the 90 minutes was characterised by a cautious, slow-moving back-pedalling, an inane and useless type of short interpassing in a maze of legs and an almost complete lack of attacking flair.

The Sydney XI was a most unsuccessful combination, playing without any tactical plan.

They attacked and attacked, with the intelligence of a ram bashing against a brick-wall, never finding the cure for a massed defence.

How this team missed the influence of at least one experienced, ball-playing forward who possibly could have given the attack a few unexpected twists, replacing the dull, stereotyped mad rushing bursts.

But at least the Sydney players had a valid excuse: all our players are still hopelessly out of touch.

Even some of the Saigon heroes were woefully weak, certainly failing to enhance their reputations.

That Sydney won was somewhat due to their superior spirit and also to the fact that the Tornadoes' goalkeeper made more mistakes than Corry.

Actually, all three goals were the results of rude goal-keeping goofs and with an

ounce of luck Sydney could have scored another two or three.

One must, regrettably, pose the question whether such "internationals" in mid-January do any good to the game?

Quite possibly the opposite is true, as would be sworn by those 3665 who turned up at possibly the worst soccer arena of the world, the Show-ground, to witness this anti-spectacle.

Sydney XI v. Dallas Tornadoes 2-1 (0-1)

Sydney XI: Corry; Lincoln, Schaefer, Marnoch, Ackerley; Blue, Westwater; Armytage, Cliss, Baartz, Paterson. (Substitutes: Johnston, Morgan, G. Manuel).

Dallas Tornadoes: Enger; Stewart, Hall; Fagri, Roach, Moorcroft; Harvey, Renshaw, Randorf, Tønning, Larsen.

Scorers: Tønning 3rd min., Blue 52nd min., Westwater 84 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic. Crowd: 3665. — P.D.

NEW GUINEA: NOT AS WHITE AS THEY PAINT IT

Last year was not a good one for soccer in Papua-New Guinea.

The much-publicized visit by an Australian side fell through and the year ended with a strong possibility that a breakaway association may be formed this year.

I hear the breakaway group is angry mainly at only one official — and they are not alone in the dislike of the officer.

The breakaways, I am told, approached a leading light in the game to coach them, but were refused because the coach was committed elsewhere.

There have been accusations against referees and one official and among the top brass there are many differences of opinion.

Soccer here is popular, and unless this trouble is sorted out quickly, its future looks gloomy.

Denis Adrigan, chairman of the Australian Soccer Coaches' Federation, has said that Papua-New Guinea, before too long, should have a standard high enough to play in the World Cup series.

(Adrigan spent a month coaching in the Territory under the sponsorship of the Rothmans Sports Foundation — Ed.).

I asked one top player what he thought of the prediction.

He replied: "Other than saying it, it appears Mr. Adrigan did not give the matter much reasonable thought, all I can say is no comment."

It appears unlikely that Tala Hobart and Michael Dobbin will make the trip south to play soccer in Sydney.

They've struck a hitch in getting work permits for Australia.

As Papuans, both are Australian citizens, but there are still restrictions on working in Australia.

The pair have been invited to New South Wales by the Manly club.

They have been offered jobs on Australian wages — about three times higher than what they're getting in Moresby.

Most Papuans or New Guineans going south leave to study or as tourists.

Aust. Cup to have new-look in 1968

— By LOU GAUTIER —

A new-look, revamped Australia Cup will kick-off in about six weeks' time.

The Australian Federation Executive last weekend in Melbourne agreed to implement NSW's recommendation for a new format for the six-year-old national competition.

Under the new format, 19 clubs will take part in the series: six each from Sydney and Melbourne, two from South Australia and

one apiece from the ACT, Queensland, Newcastle, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Teams will again be split up into two geographical zones.

Sydney, Newcastle, the ACT and Queensland teams will be included in an eastern group, the others in a western group.

All Sydney teams, except the No. 6 seed, will get automatic byes into the second round, as will the Newcastle and Queensland team.

Two zones

Sydney's sixth seed will have to play-off with the Canberra participant for right of entry into the last eight of the eastern group.

In the western group the sixth Melbourne seed will also have to play-off against the Tasmanian entry and the second Adelaide seed must play the WA team, all other clubs enjoying a bye to the second round.

The three preliminary play-offs must be completed before March 31.

The second round must be completed by April 30 and the quarterfinals by May 31.

The first and second rounds and the quarterfinals will be conducted as straight knock-out games with only one match played.

The semifinals, which must be completed by September 30, will be a two-legged tie, played home and away.

The final, too, will be played on a home and away basis.

If the Australia Cup final again involves a Sydney and a Melbourne club, the first leg will be staged in Sydney on October 6, the return match in Melbourne the following Sunday.

Each State will nominate their entries for the series.

The NSW Federation still hasn't made up its mind, but is likely to follow Victoria's lead and nominate the six first teams in the order they finished in the 1967 premiership: APIA, St. George-Budapest, Croatia, Pan Hellenic, Hakoah and Canterbury.

Controversy

NSW's choice of 1968 Australia Cup candidates, however, is certain to cause plenty of controversy and it wouldn't surprise if some sort of compromise were reached, giving the winner of this year's Ampol Cup a berth in the Australia Cup to enable every Sydney team to have a chance of competing.

● (For further developments on Sydney's likely Cup entries, watch next week's issue).

FERENCVAROS TOUR IS OFF — JAPAN MAY COME

Mellow Neapolitan songs and Japanese Sukiyaki instead of rousing Hungarian csardas — that's the likely international fare for Aussie fans this year.

The Hungarian FA this week cabled ASF secretary Ian McAndrew that Ferencvaros would be unavailable to tour in July.

The reasons given were that some Ferencvaros players would be required for a training camp to prepare for the Mexico City Olympics and that the team would have to play some matches in the Hungarian Cup.

Most of the full internationals of Ferencvaros — Matrai, Pancsics, Szucs, Albert, Varga and Rakosi — will be overlooked for Olympic selection although eligible, as Hungary intends to send a fairly young side to Mexico.

However, wing half Juhász and wingers Szoke and Katona are almost certain to be Olympic candidates.

The real reason behind the Hungarian FA's move is undoubtedly their intention to force Ferencvaros' play in the Cup (called the "Cup of the Hungarian People's Republic") which, in sharp contrast to the English FA Cup, has no more significance there than

a trial match at Wentworth Park.

The Hungarian FA (MLSz) has been trying for years to build up the Cup into a significant event instead of a casual affair from which all top teams are anxious to be eliminated as soon as possible in order to arrange overseas tours.

Now the ASF is hopeful of re-approaching the Italian AC Napoli, the team of crack centre-forward Altafini, for a 1968 tour.

Napoli expressed a wish to tour Australia when their president, shipping magnate Lauro, was in Sydney last September.

Lauro told NSW Federation president, Jim Bayutti, his team would be available at reduced rates for a 1968 winter tour.

The ASF, however, were not interested at that stage and there was some talk NSW might go it alone and sponsor the Neapolitan team themselves.

These plans, however, were also discarded late last year because it was feared Napoli's tour would clash with the Ferencvaros visit.

Napoli may not be available now as they may have made other plans for the Italian off-season.

The ASF, even at this relatively late stage, however, does not expect to be left high and dry.

The Japanese FA has accepted an invitation for its national team, a qualifier for this year's Olympic finals at Mexico, to play four matches in Australia.

The Japanese tour, however, was planned for earlier in the year.

The Australian Federation may now have to ask for a revised and lengthier itinerary if no club team can be contracted to replace Ferencvaros.

Should the Japanese decline, the ASF may return South Vietnam's National Day Tournament invitation and bring the Vietnamese national team to Australia.

The ASF does not plan to send yet another official to Europe to seek a replacement for Ferencvaros.

Jim Bayutti, who will visit Europe on business in about six weeks, may be delegated to negotiate for a stop-gap alternative.



FLOTTA LAURO

Published by Soccer World Publishing Co. Pty Ltd., and printed by New Life Printery Pty. Ltd., 54 Renwick Street, Marrickville, N.S.W.